

NWS and Congress

Scott A. Carter

**Congressional Affairs
Specialist**

Office of Legislative Affairs

March 18, 2004

Office of Legislative Affairs

Where does OLA fit in to
your mission?

What do I do for You?

How do we educate and
influence Congress?

Where do you fit in and
make a difference?

NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs



Debbie Larson- Director

Brook Davis- Deputy Director

Howard Marks- Special Assistant

Legislative Affairs Specialists:

Georgia McCarroll & Neal O'Hara

NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs



Congressional Affairs Specialists:

Oceans Team

Andrew Larkin, April Roberts & Diana Martinez-Fonts

Atmospheric Team

Scott A. Carter & Craig Montesano

Fisheries Team

Heath Heikkila, Stew Harris, Lauren Batte & Mike Francisco

Office of Legislative Affairs:

NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) is the official liaison between the agency and the United States Congress. The office communicates Administration/NOAA/NWS views to Congress and is **pro-active** in notifying Congress of important NOAA/NWS developments. Conversely, the office keeps senior NOAA/NWS HQ and Field management officials informed of critical Congressional information. The office shapes the NOAA/NWS Legislative Agenda and develops an action plan to ensure effective implementation.

Office of Legislative Affairs supports the NWS mission through:

Identifying and tracking all legislation of interest to NOAA/NWS, keeping the Office of the Under Secretary and Assistant Administrators informed

Coordinating and communicating NOAA's/NWS positions on proposed pending legislation through views letters and Congressional testimony.

Office of Legislative Affairs carries out its mission through:

Being responsive and timely to Congressional inquiries including questions for the record

Managing every aspect of NOAA's/NWS participation in Congressional Hearings

Coordinating with NOAA's Budget Office on communicating a clear, concise and consistent message to Congress regarding budget issues

What do I do for YOU?

I am YOUR “eyes and ears” for the on Capitol Hill

I must effectively communicate and articulate NOAA/NWS views to advance NOAA's/NWS legislative agenda and budgetary priorities

What do I do for YOU?

I gather accurate and timely information from the Hill and communicate it ASAP to the appropriate people in NOAA/NWS

I have established and maintain good relationships with Committee and personal staff

I am responsible for preparing NOAA/NWS leadership for hearings and covering mark-ups

What I do for YOU?

I initiate meetings and briefings between NOAA/NWS leadership, Program Managers, Regional leadership and local WFO staff and the Hill (Members, Personal Staff or Committee Staff)

I am constantly responding to questions from Hill staff pertaining to NOAA/NWS programs and issues.

What do I do for YOU?

I work with your offices to look for opportunities to demonstrate the capabilities of NOAA/NWS

- * WFO Visits and Demonstrations
- * National Hurricane Center
- * Norman, Oklahoma

NOAA's/NWS Connection to Congress:

All 535 Members of Congress are impacted by NOAA/NWS

We are the one agency in the federal government that truly touches every citizen every day



Every NOAA facility and office in this country is located in a Congressional district and has at least one Representative and two Senators

How a Bill Becomes Law

HR001 Introduced
in the House



Referred to House
Committee



Referred to House
Subcommittee



Reported by Full
Committee



Rules Committee
Action



Floor Action

**Similar Proposals
Introduced in
Both Houses**



S 002 Introduced in
the Senate



Referred to Senate
Committee



Referred to
Subcommittee



Reported by Full
Committee



Floor Action

How a Bill Becomes Law

House Floor Action



**House Debate, Vote
on Passage**

Senate Floor Action



**Senate Debate, Vote
on Passage**



Conference



White House

Veto



Public Law #

How you fit in and make a difference

Whether you are responding to a constituent letter, hosting a Member or staffer or visiting Congressional staff, you are supporting the NOAA/NWS mission

Providing accurate information and educating Congress keeps communication lines open and builds Congressional support and trust

How you fit in and make a difference

Avoid using acronyms or NOAA jargon

Be responsive and timely to Congressional requests through OLA

Tone in NOAA's response is important

Know your issue, be prepared. **You are the experts**

Know your audience and pay attention

Don't exaggerate or misrepresent the truth

How you fit in and make a difference

Be prepared to meet with a Member of Congress, don't be disappointed to meet with staff

If you don't know the answer to a question, tell them you will get back to them ASAP

You want to be remembered as a reliable source, you want to be trusted

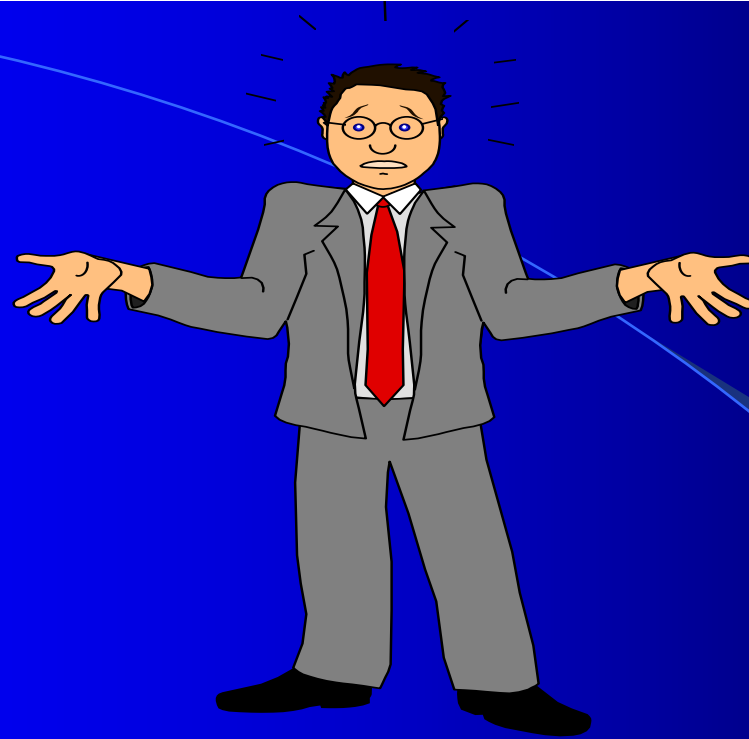
When talking budget, stick to the President's budget regardless

Challenges Ahead

Continuing to improve and prove performance

Scarce Resources

Keeping Public Support for Changes



Senator, what you are asking Mr. Gudes to do is explain what Congress was thinking...Senator, I have been in this Congress for over 20 years and I still do not know what the Congress is thinking.

Senator Ernest Hollings to Senator Ted Stevens at FY 2002 Budget Hearing.